



Helping injured and orphaned wildlife and nurturing an appreciation for our local wildlife and environment

Piedmont Wildlife Rehab, Inc. Newsletter

Ten Years of Rehabbing

Sue Fields began rehabbing wildlife in 2001 and Melissa Coe in 2004. Over the past 10 years the two rehabbers have taken in over 2,600 animals. Songbirds top the list with a total of 924, followed by 805 grey squirrels, 374 rabbits, and 320 opossums. Other species include groundhogs, flying squirrels, chipmunks, mice, turtles, hawks, geese, ducks, vultures, pigeons, a fawn, two cockatiels, a chicken, a vole, a prairie dog, and a Sora rail. Many were released or transferred to other rehabbers, and some of the sick and badly injured just didn't survive. This year we took in 208 animals, many short of our



Sue Fields with Hansel and young friends

normal average of almost 300. However, this year was a particularly busy one for grey squirrels. We took in 115, which is the most in one year since we have been rehabbing. Many came in late in the season which made it more challenging for release. For this reason, some are being overwintered because they were too young to be released by the optimal date

for the best chance of survival. However, we only took in 37 songbirds. Normally we rehab over 100. Time and resources were scarce this year and many callers had to be referred to other rehabbers. Melissa is one of only a few local rehabbers who is federally permitted to rehabilitate birds. We are in desperate need for more rehabilitators in Guilford County.



Melissa Coe and Her Dad at the Caribou Coffee Fundraiser

A Note from Our Rehabbers

Even though times get tougher for us each year, there is always a bright light here and there. We had three cages built for us by volunteers in 2011, two of which are for soft release of squirrels and opos-

sums. We also got to witness the release of Miracle during the summer. If you haven't read the story on our Rescue Recovery Release page of our website, Miracle was a orphaned baby squirrel that was near

death from the cold when we rescued him last spring. Helen Tucker helped save Miracle by using the car heater and massaging him on the way home. Let's pray for a miracle for PWR in 2012.

Officers and Board:

- _____
Melissa Coe, President
- _____
Sue Fields, Vice President of Rehabilitation
- _____
Helen Tucker, Vice President of Administration
- _____
Carl Wilson, Secretary
- _____
Helene Coe, Treasurer
- _____
Louise Brown
- _____
Katie Castellanos
- _____
Kim Santos, Editor



Website: <http://www.wildliferehabinc.org>

Dedicated Volunteer is Recognized

At our last PWR board meeting in November, Helen Tucker was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a letter from the PWR President, Melissa Coe, honoring her work as a PWR volunteer.

She has been with PWR for over a year and drives all the way from High Point to help out. Helen has many talents and takes on any task that is needed, from cleaning cages to feeding wildlife.

She enjoys woodworking and recently built several badly needed nest boxes for our squirrels.

To read more about Helen, go to the PWR Blog at the following link: <http://piedmontwildliferehab.org/index.php?>



Helen (center) with her custom-made prize wheel. Katie Castellanos (left) looks on.

New Soft Release Cages for Squirrels and Opossums!

Up until this past year, most of our squirrels and opossums were released into the wild without the opportunity to return to the cages they were raised in. Thanks to our generous volunteers we now have a cage for soft release of squirrels and one for opossums. The squirrel cage was built in June and the opossum cage in December.



New Squirrel Release Cage

Soft release allows the animals to acclimate to their surroundings prior to release. It also allows them to re-

turn to the cage for food or shelter if needed. We also practice what is



Released Squirrel

called "back-feeding". Food and water are left outside the cage while the animals learn to find food on their own. Thirteen squirrels were released from our new cage in 2011. Eleven are being overwintered in the cage and will be released in the spring.

Our new opossum release cage was made possible as an Eagle Project by a local Boy Scout Troup. Prior to our

new cage, some of our opossums were released from a modified rabbit hutch with the same concept as soft release. The new cage is much larger and will allow for the animals to climb and strengthen their limbs to prepare for release. Currently we have two opossums awaiting release.



Colin Grunenwald (center) and Boy Scout Troup 68 Build Opossum Release Cage



Please Help Us Help Our Wildlife

Donations Needed

(these are tax-deductible!!)

Food:

- Walnuts, pecans, acorns, seed
- Dry cat food for opossums

Bedding:

- Flannel, fleece, cotton, or any soft materials

Other:

- Large cages, building materials
- Heavy feeding dishes
- Toilet paper, paper towels
- Rent free building
- Incubator
- Laptop computer

Volunteer:

- Help transport animals to rehabbers and/or to veterinarians
- Animal care – feed and clean cages
- Build or repair cages and nest boxes (great service or Scout project)
- Fundraising – help with special events and grant writing
- Intern to achieve permit
- Clerical work

Money: Your contributions are also greatly appreciated and can be made in Memory or Honor of a person or pet and listed on our web site.
Mail to:



Squirrel in Pre-release Cage



Piedmont Wildlife Rehab, Inc.
2912 Liberty Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27406



Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone # _____

e-mail _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____

Website: <http://www.piedmontwildliferehab.org>



About Us

Piedmont Wildlife Rehab, Inc., a non-profit 501 (C) (3) formed in 2007 by licensed in-home rehabilitators. We receive no governmental or state funding and rely solely on private donations. Our goals are to relieve suffering in injured wildlife through rehabilitation and assist orphaned babies in a professional manner that prepares them for release back into a natural habitat, capable of reproducing another healthy generation for the environment and our enjoyment. We are committed to sharing the importance of environmental stewardship and encouraging a better understanding of our local wildlife.

PWR is a group of wonderful hard working board members and volunteers with too many to name. We thank all of the high school students, college interns, Boy and Girl Scouts and our few but consistent volunteers. We also thank the spouses that allow some of them to give so much time.

Our rehabilitators continue to learn through additional years of experience as well as yearly refresher courses. Combined, our volunteers have state permits for small mammals and Federal permits for song and migratory birds. We care for approximately 300 animals a year and average answering 10 phone calls per day. Wildlife Rehabilitation is a difficult and expensive volunteer job. We love what we do but can only be one link in the chain needed to give injured and orphaned wildlife a second chance at a natural life. Please help us to help them.

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piedmontwildliferehab.org

Fundraising Events in 2011



The Human Race 5K Charity Walk/Run



Belk Charity Sale



Caribou Coffee

*People & Paws
4 Hope*



Ten Thousand Villages Fund Raiser